



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE REMOVES 3,000 CRIMINAL ALIENS, STATUS VIOLATORS FROM 5-STATE AREA IN FY-04**

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—Detention and Removal officers with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) removed 3,152 criminal aliens and status violators from a five-state area that includes Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa during fiscal year 2004.

“It is our responsibility to remove every alien who has been ordered deported,” said Field Office Director Scott Baniecek of ICE’s Detention and Removal Operations (DRO). “It’s more important than ever to ensure that our nation’s legal immigration system has integrity,” he added. Baniecek oversees the program for the five-state area.

Of the 3,152 removed from the five-state area during the fiscal year, 1,488 were classified as criminal aliens, having been convicted of such crimes as drug offenses, assault and battery, armed robbery, rape, and fraud, among others. The remainder, 1,664, had committed administrative immigration law violations.

Nationwide, ICE Detention and Removal officers deported 157,281 offenders, of which 82,802 were criminal aliens and 74,479 were immigration status violators. The removals are part of a 10-year strategic national initiative focused on locating, apprehending and removing all persons who have been through due process and have been issued a final order of removal.

Below are examples of people removed from the United States by DRO officers in Minnesota during FY04.

- Emmanuel Bill Gaye was deported to his native Liberia in October 2003. In federal immigration court, Gaye admitted to having been in charge of a Liberian traffic checkpoint during the Charles Taylor regime at which dozens of rapes, robberies and killings were committed. He admitted to killing ten people himself, as well as to raping a woman.

- ICE deported dozens of men who had been convicted of sex offenses involving children or minors. For example, Jaime Sanchez-Hernandez entered the U.S. illegally and subsequently bound, gagged, and raped a 5-year-old Chaska, Minn. girl. Another man, Isidro Arreaga-Manzera, had used 17 aliases in the U.S. during a criminal career that stretched back to 1992. In 2002 he was convicted of four counts of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct for engaging in sexual liaisons with a 15-year-old girl in St. Peter, Minn.

A primary goal of ICE's Detention and Removal Operations is to reduce the number of alien absconders hiding in the United States. Absconders are foreign nationals who have been ordered by a federal immigration judge to report for removal, but failed to comply with the order and are now considered fugitives. Since these fugitives have already been through immigration proceedings, they are subject to immediate removal from the country once they are apprehended.

ICE officers located and arrested 243 fugitives in the five-state area during FY04, 108 of them criminal aliens. More than 200 of those fugitives had been removed from the United States by the end of the fiscal year.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*